REMARKS

Applicant have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on April 21, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 are amended herein; no claims are cancelled or added. Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 15 were objected to because they did not appear on separate lines in the original filed specification. The Examiner requested that the pages on which these claims appear be replaced and provided with the response. Correspondingly, replacement pages for these claim pages are being supplied herewith.

However, Applicants note that claims 8 and 15 have been amended above, but Applicants assume the Examiner wanted what was originally filed with the specification re-provided for the original filing with the original text having the correct spacing. If this is not the case, then the Examiner may use the reproduction of the claims provided above having the required status identifiers. If this is the case, then the Examiner is provided herewith replacement pages of the original claims having the proper spacing. Thus, Applicants believe these objections have been fully addressed and overcome and should be withdrawn.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Rao et al. (U.S. 5,883,635). It is fundamental that in order to sustain an obviousness rejection, each every step in the rejected claims must be taught or implicit in the cited reference. Here, Rao does not teach or suggest synchronization markers and grouping cells to be processed according to synchronization markers, as is positively recited in Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15. Moreover, Rao does not teach a generic table whose size can be configured as is now positively recited in Applicant's amended independent claim 1.

More specifically, Rao is directed towards generically displaying a table in a generic format to a user. Rao, col. 5 lines 60-67 and col. 6 lines 1-13. Rao does not teach or suggest rendering that generic format to one or more potentially different media, and in some cases

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concurrently or in parallel. Moreover, the generic format and the size of the generic table representation in Rao are not configurable. Conversely, Applicant's amended independent claim now positively recites a generic table, the size of which is configurable.

Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion of a teaching in Rao where the cells of its generic format are associated with synchronization markers. As is now positively recited in Applicant's amended independent claims, the synchronization markers permit operations to be processed on groups of cells having the same synchronization markers. This is advantageous because it permits more efficient processing and permits a table to be rendered in non obvious manners where a single needed operation or formatting command can process in a single iteration against all the cells with which it needs to process. Applicant cannot find a single teaching or suggestion of a teaching in Rao that is even remotely similar to this aspect of Applicant's invention that is now positively recited in Applicant's amended independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that that Examiner remove the rejections with respect to Rao and permit the claims to issue.

Filing Date: October 30, 2000

Title: METHODS FOR RENDERING TABLES

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (513-942-0224) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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- 7. The instructions of claim 1, wherein the formatting commands include one or more relative positions of each cell to one another.
- 8. A set of executable instructions operable to produce formatting commands to render a table, comprising the steps of:

decoupling one or more cells from a table;

storing the cells in a matrix;

expressing a dimension associated with each cell in terms of each cell's relative position to each other within the matrix; and

outputting one or more formatting commands operable to produce a rendition of the table on a output media from the matrix.

- 9. The instructions of claim 8, further comprising the steps of: executing the formatting commands wherein every cell occupying a single row is rendered to the output media independent of each other.
- 10. The instructions of claim 9, further comprising the steps of: processing the formatting commands vertically on the output media beginning with a first row and continuing to a last row.
- 11. The instructions of claim 8, wherein the cells are decoupled from the table by parsing the table represented by a first format.

- 12. The instructions of claim 8, further comprising the steps of: adjusting the dimensions of each cell based on an output media dimension.
- 13. The instructions of claim 8, wherein the output media dimension is configurable.
- 14. The instructions of claim 8, further comprising:

 executing the formatting commands in parallel to produce the rendition of the table on the output media.
- 15. A set of executable instructions operable to produce a rendition of a table, comprising the steps of:

representing one or more cells of a table with one or more executable commands wherein each command has one or more parameters defining an outputted cell's dimensions on an output media; and

executing the commands in parallel to produce a rendition of the table on the output media.

16. The instructions of claim 15, further comprising the steps of: reformatting the cells of the table to define a dimension of each cell by a relative position of each cell to one another.